

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 101128Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8268

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

CINCUSNAVEUR LONON ENGLAND

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4294

LRE.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BA

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTING ON BAHRAIN ELECTIONS

REF: MANAMA 779

SUMMARY: KUWAITI PRESS PORTRAYS BAHRAIN ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS AS VISTORY FOR LEFTISTS FD INDIITIVE OF POPULAR DISKONTENT AND SUSPICION OF GOB. LOCAL PRESS, HOWEVER, PRONE TO ACCENTUATE LEFTIST GAINS AND CRITICIZE CONSERVATIVE POSITION. END SUMMARY

1. BAHRAIN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS EXTENSIVELY REPORTED IN PRESS HERE DECEMBER 9.

2. ARABIC DAILY AL-QABAS HEADLINED "GOVERNMENT DID NOT INTERFERE- SURPRISES: FAILURE OF AL-URAYID AND AL-SHAMLAN...LEFTIST MP'S WIN BUT MAJORITY IS FROM MODERATES." AL-QABAS ARTICLE STKEATES THAT RESULTS OF ELECTIONS ARE CONSIDERED "SWEEPING VICTORY FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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PEOPLE'S BLOC". IN ADDITION TO SUCCESS TEN (SIC) BLOC CANDID-

ATES PAPER MENTIONED THAT SIX OF OTHER WINNING CANDIDATES SYM-

PATHIZE WITH BLOC, THEREBY INCREASING ITS WEIGHT WITHIN AASEMBLY.

3. KUWAIT TIMES HXEDLINED "YOUTHS ROUT VETERANS IN BAHRAIN ELECTIONS" AND STATES "RESULTS OF BAHRAIN ELECTIONS CAUSED SENSATION WHEN IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT MOST OF YOUTHFUL CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN VOTED TO FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AT COST OF TWO MOST POWERFUL LEADERS OF COUNTRY WHO WERE SURPRISINGLY DEFEATED." ARTICLE ADDS THAT DEFEATS AL-URAYID AND AL-SHAMLAN ATTRIBUTED TO "LARGE NUMBER OF CONDDIDATES, 115 IN ALL, WHO SCRAMBLED FOR THE

30,000 OR SO REGISTERED ALL-MALE VOTES. BESIDES MR. AL-URAYID AND AL-SHAMLAN, LOSERS INCLUDED FIVE CHIEF EDITORS OF LOCAL PUBLICATIONS WHICH ARE ALL IN ARABIC." ARTICLE COMMENTED: "OBSERPARS AGREED THAT TREND OF OUTCOME INDICATED PEOPLE HAVE DEEP SUSPICIONMQF GOVERNMENT AND ALL OTHERS WHM SUPPORT TS POLICIES. THE EDITORS ALL LOST BECAUSE THEIR PUBLICATIONS FIERCELY SUPPORTED GOVERNMENT POLICIES, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL. IT WAS ALSO POPULAR EXPRESSION OF DISCONTENT AGAINST RISING PRICES, DECLINING INCOME AND FEARS OF INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT, OBSERVERS SAID."

4. KUWAIT TIMES ECHOED SAME SENTIMENT AND HEADLINED "UPSET VICTORY FOR BAHRAINI LEFTISTS". STORY SIMILAR TO OTHERS BBT NOTES THAT: "ANOTHER VICTOR IN THE POLL IS SHEIKH IBRAHIM SULMAN KHALID AL-KHALPAA A MEMBER OF THE RULING FAMILY, BUT A SECOND AL-KHALIFA WHO TRIED THE DEMOCRATIC ROADNT0 GOVERNMENT WAS DEFEAGED.

5. COMMENT: LOCAL PRESS INCLINED TO ACCENTUATE LEFTIST VICTORIES AND AKVTI-GOB SORENGQMHS. REPORTS THEREFORE NO DOUBT SOMEWHAT OVERDRAWN. EMBASSY MANAMA MAY, HOWEVER, WISH COMMENT ON SOME OF ABOVE REPORTS.
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